## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) 7:00pm, Monday, April 25, 2005 517/373-7346 517/373-2426

## Governor, Parents Demand Senate Action on Adult-Rated Video Games

LANSING- Governor Jennifer Granholm told a Senate panel this evening that Michigan's parents expect the State Senate to move quickly on legislation prohibiting the sale of adult-rated video games to children. Granholm, a mother of three, was joined by children advocacy leaders and mid-Michigan parents in demanding that the Legislature take immediate action in defense of our families.

"The Governor was once again passionate and articulate in making the case against selling such inappropriate material to kids," said Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). "Governor Granholm recognizes, as do the Senate Democrats, that we have a responsibility to protect our children."

Following the Governor's testimony, Senate Democrats played a video at the hearing showing clips from some of today's top-selling adult-rated video games. Many of the parents in the room were visually upset and disturbed to see the type of content that can be legally sold to children in Michigan.

"Even the best parents need their government to take common sense measures to help keep our children safe," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit), author of the legislation to prohibit the sale of such games to children. "We recognize that this violent material being targeted towards our kids is a serious problem in building healthy families and stronger communities."

Senator Clarke's legislation, Senate Bill 249, is being widely supported by children's advocacy groups around the state. "The South East Michigan Chapter of Parents Television Council joins chapters around the country to support legislative initiatives to ban the sale of 'M' and 'AO' rated games to minors," said Children's Television Council Chapter Director Rich Coleman, who testified at tonight's hearing.

The Senate Democrats have additional hearings scheduled in Detroit on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Bay City on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and Grand Rapids on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

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